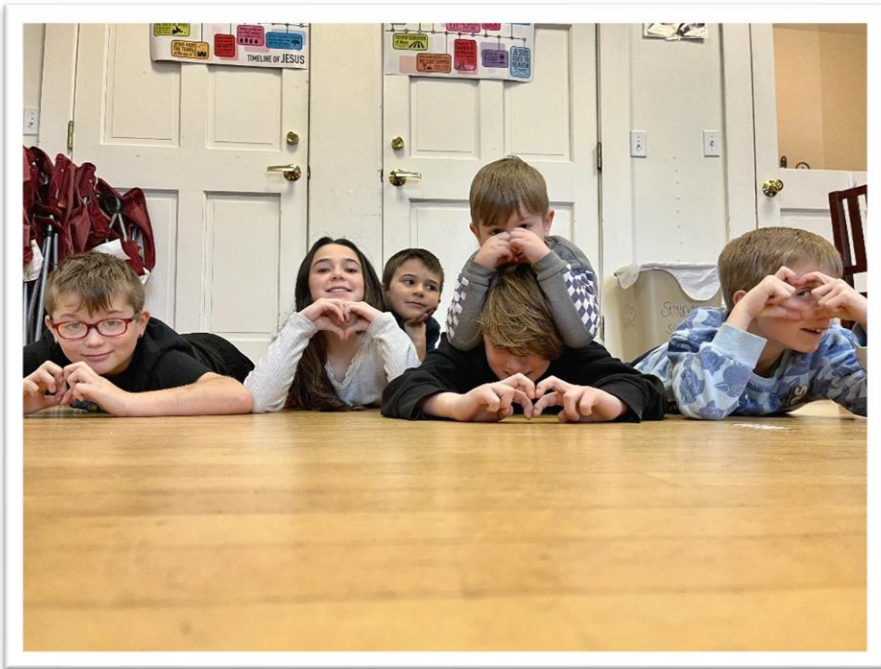


**The First Congregational Church
of Rockport, UCC**

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

May 17, 2026



*The First Congregational Church of Rockport is an
Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.
Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith,
you are welcome here for an hour or a lifetime.*

About Us

Our Covenant

We, the members of this congregation welcome you with gladness into our lives. We renew our covenant of faith and offer you our support, encouragement and love to the end that all of us may grow in the boundless mercy of God. By loving and being loved, forgiving and being forgiven, serving and being served, let us go forward together with courage as Christ's disciples, glorifying God by being fully alive.

Our Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of The First Congregational Church of Rockport are called upon to love each other as God loves us, freely and unconditionally. Therefore, we covenant to become an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, nationality, ethnicity and immigration status into full membership and participation in our community life and ministry. We embrace and support those who experience rejection and exile from spiritual community and commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice.

Serving the Church

The Congregation, Ministers
Dr. Philip Swanson, Music Director
Kristina Martin, Associate Music Director
Kaitlyn Welch, Director of Faith Formation
Annette Mackin, Office Manager
Phil Bynarowicz, Church Sexton
Daniel Chase, Tech. Person

Contact information

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12 School St., Rockport, Mass. 01966
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Office Hours

Wed., Thurs. Fri.
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Closed Monday & Tuesdays

Welcome to our Sanctuary! Hearing devices are on a rack by the main entrance, cushions are available in the last pew. Please be at home and comfortable here!



We acknowledge that the land we live on and the water that surrounds us were inhabited by the Pawtucket peoples, members of the Wabanaki Confederacy.

Order of Worship

We Gather as God's People

“We are a Beloved Community”

Prelude Celeste, piano

Introit God Welcomes All

S. African

Welcome Katie and Youth

“Welcome to church. Here, kindness matters—smile, be present, and be good to one another. We welcome you not just into a place, but into a shared journey of faith as Christians. Shanti, Salom, shalom—peace be with everyone.

No matter who you are or where you are on your walk of faith and life's journey, you are welcome here. We are an intergenerational community, embracing all ages, growing and learning together.”

-Written by the Youth

Hymn “The Work of Imagination” Illustrated Ministry with Nicole Girard, Brian Lynam, singers, congregation

Announcements

Acknowledgement of Music

Music Musica Est Dei Donum Optimi, Rolande de Lassus (16th c.)

Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, everyone! Who made this beautiful day?

ALL: God made this day!

Leader: Who brings us together as one big family?

ALL: God brings us together!

Leader: What are we here to do?

ALL: Worship God!

Leader: Can we love and care for each other as God loves us?

ALL: Yes, we can!

Leader: Then let's get ready to lift your voices.

ALL: We are ready to worship God together!

Prayer of Invocation

We come before You today with grateful hearts, thankful for the gift of this beloved church family and the blessing of this community. As we gather in this place, we invite Your presence to dwell among us. Fill this space with Your peace and love. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Leader: Peace be with you,

Response: and also with you.

Music You Gotta Have Love in Your Heart, (adapted) David Lynch

Movement Meditation from Real Kids Real Faith: Empowerment
Breathe in slowly and feel the air move into your body. **(hand on heart & other hand on tummy).**

Breathe out slowly and feel the air move out of your body.

Breathe in slowly and feel the air move into your body.

Breathe out slowly and feel the air move out of your body.

Sometimes we feel small and powerless, **(bow head down)**

Forgotten and alone. **(hug self while head down)**

Then we look around us **(look from side to side)**

and see others who need a helping hand, **(stretch arms out to sides)**

We decide to be strong like lions, **(show muscles)**

Teaching... "We are a beloved community that prays together."

Gracious and loving God,

You call us to be one body, joined in compassion, humility, and grace. Shape us into a beloved community- where all are seen, all are valued, and all are embraced as your children. Teach us to listen with open hearts, to serve with willing hands, and to walk gently with one another.

In your flowers, someone to invite to church, to pray for, you miss, someone in need, yourself, family, friends, etc.

Prayer for beloved community

Guide us to grow together across generations, honoring the wisdom of the old and the wonder of the young. Let peace dwell among us so that we may be a living witness to your grace in the world. In your holy name we pray.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Response #769 Hear our Prayer

Offering The Lord's Prayer

Arnold Stals (1973)

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Amy and Travis

Help us remember that giving is not just about what we place before You today, but about offering our whole lives in service to you and to one another. We give with joy, we give with gratitude, and we give in love, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Spiritual

I'm gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime. (X2)

(Live, work, pray, sing)

Benediction

Go now in the spirit of love that binds us together.
May you carry with you the vision of the Beloved Community:
a world where justice rolls down like waters,
where every voice is heard, every dignity honored,
And every table has room enough for all.

May your words be instruments of peace,
And your lives be a blessing to others.

Go in love. Go in unity. Go in peace.
Amen.

AMEN (1960's) Sung by singers, congregation, with trombone, Zoey

Postlude Celeste, piano

Service Helpers Today

Greeters and singers Amaia, Gia, Zoey, with Chancel Choir

Ushers Luken, Travis & Amy

**The flowers on the altar this morning
are given in loving memory of
Linnea Joann Humphrey
by her grandparents, Sue and Bill Bowers**



If you would like to be included on a monthly intergenerational Birthday Greetings List in the log, please fill out this form, put it in the offering plate or drop it in the office or email oldsloopbirthdays@icloud.com.



Include: Your Name _____
Your Birthday Month ___ Day ___ Year _____ (optional)
How would you like to be contacted:
Phone _____ Email: _____

Our Virtual attendees are welcome and children with parental permission and parental contact information only.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS May 17-24, 2026

- Sunday, May 17 10:00 am Sunday Service Dir. of Faith
Formation, Katie Welch
After worship Coffee Hour “lite” hosted by the Welcoming Committee
11:30 am Outreach Committee meets
2:00 pm Women’s AA group (Morgan Room)
7:00 pm Cabinet meets online
- Monday, May 18 Office Closed
11:00 am Richard Morris Memorial & collation Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, May 19 Office Closed
11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- Wednesday, May 20 Church Office Open 9am -2pm
9:15 am Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
3:00 pm Storytelling Zoom
5:00 pm Bible Study Zoom
6:00 pm Jalapenos fundraiser
- Thursday, May 21 Church Office Open 9 am-2 pm
9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)
- Friday, May 22 Church Office Open 9 am-2pm
4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom
- Saturday, May 23
8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday, May 24 10:00 am Service with Rev. Elsa Tranfaglia



Old Sloop Presents

Sat May 30: The Black Feathers – Nora Meier opens
“The Black Feathers could well be Britain’s answer to Gillian
Welch and Dave Rawlings” – Flying Shoes